





Custer Gallatin National Forest

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Web: www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin

News Release

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Initial Forest Plan Revision Publications for Public Review

Draft Assessment of Existing Conditions & Preliminary Need to Change Reports Available for Review

Bozeman, MT – The initial phase of Forest Plan Revision, an overarching document that guides the Custer Gallatin National Forest for the upcoming 15 or more years, is coming to a close. The draft Assessment of Existing Conditions and the draft Preliminary Need to Change publications are available for public review as this initial phase wraps up. The assessment is a snapshot in time of the conditions on the ground across the Custer Gallatin National Forest and serves as a starting place for the rest of the plan revision. A shorter document, the Preliminary Need to Change covers initial ideas of needed management plan changes resulting from combining two Forest plans, filling gaps in plan direction, implementing the Forest Service planning requirements and reflecting new laws, new information, science and adaptive management. It is expected other need to change items will arise, but not all items must be identified now.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest will come out of Forest Plan Revision with one unified Forest Plan across the entire forest. “Given over 20 public meetings, small group conversations, hundreds of questionnaires and thousands of emails we heard what is important to people across the Custer Gallatin National Forest,” said Virginia Kelly, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader. “Having existing conditions information and the public interest to date will help us start developing the plan in 2017, with more public involvement opportunities as each phase progresses.

The draft Assessment Report of Existing Conditions and the draft Preliminary Need to Change documents are available for [download online](#) at: www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin, by clicking on Forest Plan Revision (upper right-hand corner quicklink), public involvement and assessment links. Hardcopy versions are also available at district offices, 12 community libraries, Cooke City chamber desk and limited numbers are available upon request by calling 406-587-6735. Topic specific specialist reports are available on-line.

- More -



Libraries or chambers include:

Bozeman Public Library	West Yellowstone Public Library
Livingston Public Library	Gardiner Community Library
Carnegie Public Library, Big Timber	Red Lodge Carnegie Library
Billings Public Library	Bicentennial Library of Colstrip
Ekalaka Public Library	Harding County Library in Buffalo, SD,
Big Sky Community Library	Stillwater County Library in Columbus, MT
Cooke City Chamber Desk	

Feedback on the draft Assessment of Existing Conditions and Need to Change documents is encouraged and preferred online thru January 6, 2017 by utilizing our Comment Analysis Response Application, an electronic commenting tool. Feedback is most useful when it includes new information, information that has a direct relation to the Assessment of Existing Conditions or Need to Change and includes supporting reasons. Information not directly related to the Assessment or Need for Change will be considered in future planning phases. [A Reviewer's Guide to Review and Feedback](#) is available online to help guide this process.

Additional methods include emailing cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us or by mail or hand delivery at Forest Service: Attn: Forest Plan Revision, Custer Gallatin National Forest, 10 E Babcock, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771. **Please address subject line as Assessment of Existing Conditions/Need to Change Feedback.** All submissions are part of public record.

For general information or to subscribe to the mailing list visit: www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin.

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